

Assisting Constituents in the 10th Congressional District

Donald Payne

Conservation Technical Assistance

UCAP Assists Weequahic Park Association

NRCS and the Urban Conservation Action Partnership (UCAP) have reestablished an important partnership with the Weequahic Park Association. Weequahic Park was the first park designed in New Jersey. The association is working with NRCS and the Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District in conducting a resource inventory of the park's forest, vegetation, and wildlife habitat. This partnership will develop a comprehensive resource management plan to address both historical uses and future recreational activities. The resource management plan will be a part of an overall park management plan that will be used to guide Weequahic Park officials as they meet the needs of the residents and visitors of this historic park.

Application for RC&D Program

NRCS staff assisted the Urban Conservation Action Partnership (UCAP) Board of Directors in preparation of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) application for Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Passaic counties. The region is the last area in New Jersey to seek RC&D Council status. Approval by the Secretary of Agriculture would increase NRCS assistance in areas such as community development, urban-rural interface, greenway and open space preservation, urban natural resource conservation, and outreach to the residents, who number more than 2 million, in the region.

Improving Water Quality in the Rahway River Watershed

Water quality in the Rahway River Watershed has been positively impacted by the riparian buffers installed at the Rahway River Park. There has been a significant reduction in the numbers of resident Canada geese and other wildlife whose droppings had created an unappealing and unhealthy situation in the watershed. Planting buffers along a streambank deters Canada geese and other flying species from making their habitat along the water's edge. Local residents can now enjoy use of the trails and open grass areas around the lake.

Conservation Education and Outreach

All members of the New Jersey Conservation Partnership are actively engaged in public education and outreach. Conservation education and direct assistance to the public are ongoing priorities in your Congressional District and throughout the state.

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Soil Survey

Essex County Soil Survey Being Digitized

NRCS soil scientists have completed another 3,000 acres of mapping in Essex County to bring the total to 83,000 acres in just three years. This Progressive Soil Survey, done in cooperation with the Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District, State Soil Conservation Committee, and Essex County government, was completed in September 2001. With \$125,000 in funding provided by the New Jersey Legislature, the survey will be published both in hard print and in a digital format for access over the Internet. Soil surveys provide information on soil characteristics and capabilities to help people better understand soils and their use.

Soil Erosion Control

Soil Erosion and Stormwater Control Provided in Developing Areas

The NJ Conservation Partnership helps growing communities protect their soil resources from erosion. Through the State Soil Conservation Committee's erosion and sediment control regulatory program, the Soil Conservation Districts serving District 10 review and certify proposed development plans for soil erosion control before and after construction. They also review plans for stormwater control and issue permits. Local inspectors check compliance to ensure natural resource conservation on development sites.

For more information about these and other conservation issues in the 10th District, contact the Hudson-Essex-Passaic SCD: (973) 364-0786; Somerset-Union SCD: (908) 526-2701 or NRCS Morris Plains UCAP Service Center: (973) 538-1552. State level contacts are the SSCC: (609) 292-5540; NJACD: (973) 398-2511; NRCS: (732) 246-1171.